

# ArAS News

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ARMENIAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (A r A S)

No. 56 (July 11, 2012)

---



---

## CONTENTS:

1. EAAS XI General Meeting in Moscow	2
2. EWASS-2012 in Rome	3
3. Vatican Observatory Summer School	5
4. IAU XXVIII General Assembly in Beijing	6
5. Fourth Byurakan International Summer School	7
6. Anania Shirakatsi – 1400 meeting	9
7. ANSEF Forum 2012	10
8. ANSEF call 2013	10
9. ArAS Prize for Young Astronomers 2012	11
10. Anniversaries: Magda Stavinschi – 70	11
Areg Mickaelian – 50	12
Donald Barry – 50	13

---

The ArAS Newsletter in the INTERNET: <http://www.aras.am/ArasNews/arasnews.html>

## EAAS XI GENERAL MEETING in MOSCOW



The Euro-Asian Astronomical Society (EAAS) XI general meeting and a scientific conference “*Astronomy of the Information Burst: Results and Problems*” took place on May 28 – June 1, 2012 at the M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU) and P.K. Sternberg State Astronomical Institute (SAI), Russia. Altogether, some 250 scientists took part. The program of the General Meeting included:

1. Report on the EAAS Council activities for 2008–2012
2. Report of the EAAS Financial Board
3. Election of the EAAS Co-Chairpersons
4. Election of the EAAS Council Board
5. Election of the EAAS Financial Board

The conference “*Astronomy of the Information Burst: Results and Problems*” included plenary talks by invited leading scientists on: problems and prospects of astronomical investigations during the information revolution; intensification of work on the world virtual observatory; wide use of all-sky multi-wave robotized surveys; new computer techniques of detection of astrophysical objects with further, more thorough studies; new Russian space projects. Besides, a number of sections on different branches of the astronomical knowledge and astronomical education were held. There were 6 sections:

- The Sun
- Stars, Planetary Systems and Interstellar Medium
- Astrometry and Celestial Mechanics
- Modern Stellar Astronomy
- Virtual Observatories
- Extragalactic Astronomy
- Astronomical Education and Propagation of the Astronomical Knowledge



Talks related to various areas of astronomy were given and discussed; most important were talks concerning the features of the Earth’s rotation, discovery of water on Moon, dangerous for the Earth asteroids and comets, current Solar activity cycle, astrochemistry and origin of stars, black holes, various problems of cosmology, new projects of space observatories and Virtual Observatories.

The General Meeting discussed EAAS works done, future affairs, perspectives of the development of astronomy in the territory of the FSU, including the promotion of the scientific collaboration, organization of further annual meetings, scientific conferences and schools, etc.

From Armenia, ArAS Co-President and EAAS Council member Areg Mickaelian participated in the General Meeting and the Scientific Conference, as well as in the EAAS Council meeting. He presented a talk at the Conference (section “Virtual Observatories”) on “*Multiwavelength studies of Markarian galaxies*” and took an active part in the works of EAAS General Meeting and EAAS Council Meeting. Particularly, his report on the ArAS activities, especially the organization of the scientific journalism and popularization of astronomy in Armenia caused an interest and, on opinion of many participants, could serve as a good experience for other FSU countries as well. This report became a basis for the discussion on scientific journalism during the General Meeting.

EAAS Council elections took place on the last day, June 1. A.M. Mickaelian was elected EAAS Council member for more 4 years. A number of social events also took place during the Meeting: welcome reception, meetings, concert and banquet.

EAAS was founded in 1990 as the astronomical society of the Soviet Union, however, after its collapse, the society was renamed Euro-Asian Astronomical Society and at present it has some 800 scientists from 31 countries. There are 12 members from Armenia and ArAS is its official representative in Armenia.

*Areg Mickaelian, EAAS Council member*

## **EWASS-2012 in ROME**



The European Week of Astronomy and Space Science (EWASS), formerly known as JENAM (Joint European and National Astronomical Meeting) in 2012 took place in Rome, Italy, at the Pontificia Università Lateranense, on 1-6 July. It was the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Astronomical Society (EAS). EWASS 2012 hosted 11 plenary talks, 10 Symposia, 12 Special Sessions, and 6 Special Meetings on various aspects of modern astronomy. The conference addressed a wide range of topics in Astronomy and Space Sciences and related technologies that are of interest to the European astronomical community. The EAS Council meeting, Tycho Brahe Prize and Woltjer Lecture also took place during EWASS 2012. Social events also took place; excursions in Rome, meetings, welcome reception and banquet.

Astronomers from almost all European and many other countries participated, as well as representatives of European scientific organizations and other guests, altogether more than 600 people.

The following meetings were included in the program:

## **EWASS Symposia**

**Symposium 1:** Molecular gas in high-z galaxies

**Symposium 2:** The astrochemical universe unveiled with Herschel

**Symposium 3:** Gas for cosmology in the nearby Universe

**Symposium 4:** The Galactic Plane reloaded: a brand new Multiwavelength Milky Way from TeV to MHz

**Symposium 5:** Gaia Research for European Astronomy Training: GREAT Network Science Symposium

**Symposium 6:** Stellar Populations 55 years after the Vatican Conference

**Symposium 7:** Theory and observations of Core-Collapse Supernovae: from the explosion mechanism to the building up of the remnant; an update of what is being done in Europe

**Symposium 8:** The Sun: new tools and ideas in observational solar astrophysics

**Symposium 9:** Astronomy education in Europe

**Symposium 10:** 30 years of Italian participation to ESO

## **EWASS Special Sessions**

**SpS1:** Cosmic reionization: updating physical scenarios

**SpS2:** Use of gravitational lensing to study distant galaxies

**SpS3:** The picture of galaxy evolution painted with Lyman alpha

**SpS4:** Structure of galaxy disks shaped by secular evolution and environmental processes

**SpS5:** Morphology and kinematics of interacting galaxies

**SpS6:** The European Extremely Large Telescope

**SpS7:** The build up of the red sequence

**SpS8:** ASTRO-H: High-energy Astrophysics with the Next-Generation X-ray Observatory

**SpS9:** Formation and disruption of jets in black-hole binaries and AGNs

**SpS10:** Scientific and technological challenges in the study of Solar System origin

**SpS11:** From solar physics to astrophysics: the Sun as Rosetta stone for understanding astrophysical processes

**SpS12:** Long-term preservation... from the stars? File format assessment and technical issues in preservation projects for cultural resources

## **EWASS Special Meetings**

**SM1:** EAS Council Meeting (private)

**SM2:** GREAT Meeting

**SM3:** Astronet Meeting

**SM4:** SAIt Meeting

**SM5:** Europlanets Nodes Meeting (private)

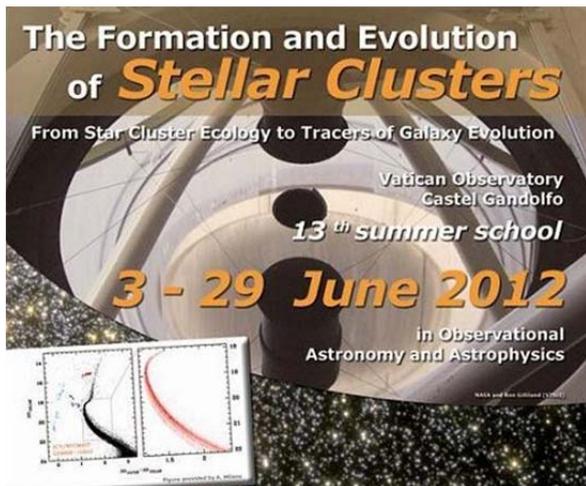
**SM6:** EPO GTTP training session (for teachers)

From Armenia, ArAS Co-President Areg Mickaelian participated in the EAS General Assembly, EAS Council Meeting with the Affiliated Societies, and three scientific meetings (S6, S9, SpS5) and gave two talks in them: (S9), (SpS5).

EAS was founded in 1990 as an organization unifying astronomy in the European countries. At present it has some 870 astronomers from 45 countries. From Armenia, 24 astronomers are EAS members and ArAS is one of the EAS official Affiliated Societies. One of the EAS General Meetings (JENAM-2007, <http://www.aras.am/Jenam2007/index.htm>) was held in Armenia, which was the largest scientific event in the history of our country. Further JENAMs were held in Vienna, Austria (2008), Hatfield, UK (2009), Lisbon, Portugal (2010), St. Petersburg, Russia (2011). It is already known that EWASS-2013 will be organized in Turku, the historical capital of Finland.

*Areg Mickaelian, ArAS Co-President*

## VATICAN OBSERVATORY SUMMER SCHOOL



The 13<sup>th</sup> Vatican Observatory Summer School (VOSS) was held on of June 3-29 in Rome, Italy. The series of these international summer schools in Observational Astronomy and Astrophysics is one of the most prestigious similar events in the world. They are being held every two years since 1986, take 4 weeks and involve 25 young astronomers (MSc or PHD) and each time are devoted to one of the most important and hot topics of astronomy. This time the school was devoted to ***The Formation and Evolution of Stellar Clusters: From Star Cluster Ecology to Tracers of Galaxy Evolution.***

The following problems were discussed: stellar structure and evolutionary phases, planet formation, stellar populations, stellar dynamics, dynamics of binary formation and evolution in dense stellar systems, basic principles of dynamical 2-body relaxation, Monte Carlo methods, direct N-body methods, globular cluster populations, generating simple stellar populations and simulation of star clusters by computer simulation, different ways of age dating clusters, theory of cluster formation, formation and evolution of Young Massive Clusters (YMC), stellar content within YMCs, linking star and cluster formation, mergers, spirals, dwarfs, escape from clusters in a galactic tide, proposal writing for telescopes. Other activities included laboratory exercises, use of the Observatory computers for data reduction, image processing, and running/analyzing relevant simulations, and the use of astronomical databases.

The courses were divided into 3 main parts: morning and evening lectures, and practical courses. Famous scientists Douglas C. Heggie (Chair, University of Edinburgh, UK), David A. Brown (Dean of Faculty, Vatican Observatory), José G. Funes (Director of Vatican Observatory), Francesca D'Antona (INAF – Osservatorio Astronomico di Roma, Italy), Nate Bastian (Excellence Cluster Universe, Munich, Germany) and Mark Gieles (University of Cambridge, UK) were invited to give lectures in the school.



Some 160 young astronomers were registered and 25 of them from 23 countries were selected for participation: Argentina, Armenia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Georgia, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Honduras, Madagascar, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, Slovakia, Taiwan, Thailand, UK,

USA, Venezuela, and Vietnam. Hayk Abrahamyan, Junior Researcher of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) was the Armenian representative.

Each student presented a 15-20 minute report. Hayk's report was devoted to the most famous Armenian sightseeing, to BAO and to his work on studies of infrared sources. A meeting with the Pope and many excursions (Vatican museums, Florence, Galileo's home and museum, Pisa tower, Mediterranean sea, and dozens of castles) took place during the school as well.

*Hayk Abrahamyan, Junior Researcher, BAO*

## **IAU XXVIII GENERAL ASSEMBLY in BEIJING**



The International Astronomical Union (IAU) XXVIII General Assembly (GA) will be held on **August 20-31, 2012** in **Beijing, China**. In August 2012 China will for the first time host the IAU GA in Beijing. This triennial gathering of astronomers from around the world to discuss and debate the most recent discoveries about the universe is an important part of the vitality of astronomy. The venue of the Beijing GA will be the new China National Convention Center that is housed in the Olympic Park in a beautiful, spacious building and area that is full of amenities for conference participants and visitors. GA participants will have an opportunity to experience the wide range of astronomical activities now taking place in China that include new projects, facilities, and institutes. They will also report on, hear and discuss the latest research results from every field of astronomy.

The General Assembly will have 4 Invited Discourses, 8 IAU Symposia, 18 Special Sessions, 7 Joint Discussions, and Special Lunchtime Lectures. The following meetings are included in the program:

### **IAU Symposia**

**IAU S288** Astrophysics from Antarctica

**IAU S289** Advancing the physics of cosmic distances

**IAU S290** Feeding compact objects: Accretion on all scales

**IAU S291** Neutron stars and pulsars: Challenges and opportunities after 80 Years

**IAU S292** Molecular Gas, Dust, and Star Formation in Galaxies

**IAU S293** Formation, detection, and characterization of extrasolar habitable planets

**IAU S294** Solar and astrophysical dynamos and magnetic activity

**IAU S295** The intriguing life of massive galaxies

### **Special Sessions**

**SpS1** Origin and complexity of massive star clusters

**SpS2** Cosmic evolution of groups and clusters of galaxies

**SpS3** Galaxy evolution through secular processes

- SpS4** New era for studying interstellar and intergalactic magnetic fields
- SpS5** The IR view of massive stars: the main sequence and beyond
- SpS6** Science with large solar telescopes
- SpS7** The impact hazard: current activities and future plans
- SpS8** Calibration of star-formation rate measurements across the electromagnetic spectrum
- SpS9** Future Large Scale Facilities
- SpS10** Dynamics of the star-planet relations
- SpS11** IAU Strategic Plan and the Global Office of Astronomy for Development
- SpS12** Modern views of the interstellar medium
- SpS13** High-precision tests of stellar physics from high-precision photometry
- SpS14** Communicating astronomy with the public for scientists
- SpS15** Data intensive astronomy
- SpS16** Unexplained spectral phenomena in the interstellar medium
- SpS17** Light Pollution: Protecting Astronomical Sites and Increasing Global Awareness through Education
- SpS18** "Hot Topics" for each week 24 August & 31 August

## Joint Discussions

- JD1** The highest-energy gamma-ray universe observed with Cherenkov telescope arrays
- JD2** Very massive stars in the local universe
- JD3** 3-D views of the cycling Sun in stellar context
- JD4** Ultraviolet emission in early-type galaxies
- JD5** From meteors and meteorites to their parent bodies: Current status and future developments
- JD6** The connection between radio properties and high-energy emission in AGNs
- JD7** Space-time reference systems for future research

For the details, please visit the IAU GA web site, which is available at <http://www.astronomy2012.org/dct/page/1>

## FOURTH BYURAKAN INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

The Fourth Byurakan International Summer School (4BISS) for young astronomers will take place on September 15-23, 2012 in Byurakan (Armenia). It is being organized jointly by the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) and the Armenian Astronomical Society (ArAS). The School is devoted to the great medieval scientist Anania Shirakatsi's 1400<sup>th</sup> anniversary and will be linked to Anania Shirakatsi – 1400 International Archaeoastronomical Meeting on "Astronomical heritage in the national culture" on Sep 25-28, so that the interested students may also participate in this event after the school. On September 18, the Award Ceremony of Viktor Ambartsumian International Prize 2012, one of the major prizes in astronomy/astrophysics will take place in the Armenian National Academy of Sciences, and the School participants will take part in it.

The previous Byurakan International Summer Schools were held in 2006, 2008 and 2010 (the last one combined with the IAU ISYA-2010) and attracted each time several dozens of students from altogether 21 countries. 34 famous scientists from the USA, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Russia, Australia and Armenia have been the lecturers.

**The School topics are:**

- Ground-based Telescopes and Modern Observational Techniques
- Space Telescopes and Space Missions
- Computers for Astronomy: Astronomical Data Reduction
- Catalogs, Archives, Databases and Virtual Observatories
- Studies of Planets, Stars, Nebulae, and Galaxies by various methods
- Astronomical Surveys and Future Giant Projects
- Archaeoastronomy and Astronomical Heritage

**The lecturers are:**

- *Dr. Georges ALECIAN* (OBSPM, France): The chemically peculiar stars: the signature of the diffusion process
- *Prof. Gennady BISNOVATYI-KOGAN* (Russia)
- *Dr. Haik HARUTYUNIAN* (BAO, Armenia)
- *Prof. Garik ISRAELIAN* (IAC, Spain): Exoplanets
- *Prof. Richard LOVELACE* (Cornell University, USA): Cosmic Jets and Magnetic Fields
- *Dr. Areg MICKAELIAN* (BAO, Armenia): Astronomical Surveys, Catalogs, Archives, Databases and VOs
- *Prof. Jayant NARLIKAR* (IUCAA, India): Some Conceptual Problems in Cosmology
- *Dr. Elena NIKOGOSSIAN* (BAO, Armenia): The observation of evidences of young stellar objects
- *Dr. Alain SARKISSIAN* (LATMOS, France): VO applications for asteroid and exoplanet search
- *Prof. Robert WILLIAMS* (STScI, USA): Novae
- *Prof. Yervant TERZIAN* (Cornell University, USA): The Physics of Planetary Nebulae

**Important deadlines:**

June 10, 2012	First Announcement
July 20, 2012	Deadline for applications for participation and support
July 25, 2012	Notification on distribution of travel grants
July 31, 2012	Second Announcement with tentative program
August 10, 2012	Deadline for final registration
Sep 05, 2012	Final Announcement with detailed program and practical info
Sep 15-23, 2012	Fourth Byurakan International Summer School
Sep 25-28, 2012	International Archaeoastronomical Meeting on "Astronomical heritage in the national culture"

For more information, please contact:

Areg Mickaelian ([aregmick@aras.am](mailto:aregmick@aras.am))

Gohar Harutyunyan ([goharutyunyan@gmail.com](mailto:goharutyunyan@gmail.com))

and visit our webpage at:

<http://www.aras.am/SS2012/index.html>

**Areg Mickaelian**, Chair of LOC, 4BISS  
**Gohar Harutyunyan**, Secretary of LOC, 4BISS

## ANANIA SHIRAKATSI – 1400 MEETING

**"Astronomical Heritage in the National Culture"**  
an archaeoastronomical meeting  
devoted to Anania Shirakatsi's 1400th anniversary  
combined with ArAS XI Annual Meeting  
25-28 September 2012, Byurakan, Armenia

Home  
Scientific Organizing Committee (SOC)  
Local Organizing Committee (LOC)  
Tentative program  
Deadlines  
Registration Form

A meeting on Archaeoastronomy dedicated to the 1400th anniversary of Anania Shirakatsi will take place on September 25-28, 2012 in the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO), Armenia. The meeting is being organized jointly by BAO, Institute of History, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, and Matenadaran.

Talks on the Armenian rock art, ancient calendars, astronomical terminology, ancient observatories and astronomical instruments, records of astronomical events by ancient Armenians, Anania Shirakatsi's heritage, etc. will be presented by astronomers, historians and archaeologists. Discussions on organizations of the archaeoastronomy matters in Armenia will be held.

An Archaeoastronomical Meeting "Astronomical Heritage in the National Culture" devoted to Anania Shirakatsi's 1400<sup>th</sup> anniversary (combined with ArAS XI Annual Meeting) will take place on September 25-28, 2012 in the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO), Armenia. Talks on the Armenian rock art, ancient calendars, astronomical terminology, ancient observatories and astronomical instruments, records of astronomical events by ancient Armenians, Anania Shirakatsi's heritage, etc. will be presented by 50 astronomers, historians and archaeologists from Armenia and abroad. Discussions on organizations of the archaeoastronomy matters in Armenia will be held. The meeting is being organized jointly by BAO, Institute of History, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, and Matenadaran.

Anania Shirakatsi (612-685) was the greatest Armenian scientist of the middle ages: philosopher, mathematician, astronomer, geographer, chronologist, the founder of the exact and natural sciences in Armenia. He in fact was the founder of the astronomy in Armenia.

### The Meeting topics are:

- Astronomy and World Heritage; Archaeoastronomy in Armenia
- Rock art and calendar
- Ancient Observatories: Karahunge and others
- Astronomical events in historical records; Astronomical manuscripts in Matenadaran
- Anania Shirakatsi's heritage
- Medieval astronomy in Armenia

### Important deadlines:

18 June	First Announcement
10 Aug	Deadline for registration and abstract submission
15 Aug	Notification on acceptance of the talks
05 Sep	Final announcement with detailed program and practical info
25-28 Sep	Meeting "Astronomical Heritage in the National Culture"

For more information, please contact: Areg Mickaelian ([aregmick@aras.am](mailto:aregmick@aras.am))

and visit our webpage at: <http://aras.am/Shirakatsi/Meeting/index.html>

**Areg Mickaelian**, Co-Chair of LOC, AS-1400 meeting  
**Gohar Harutyunyan**, member of LOC, AS-1400 meeting

## ANSEF FORUM 2012



# A.N.S.E.F.

The Armenian National Science & Education Fund



The Armenian National Science & Education Fund (ANSEF) Forum “Twelve Years of ANSEF Competitive Research” will take place on September 24, 2012 at the Armenian National Academy of Sciences, Yerevan, Armenia. It is dedicated to the support of research and education in Armenia. Agenda Includes:

- Welcoming Remarks
- Addresses from Dignitaries (US and Armenia)
- Keynote Speeches (ANSEF Founders)
- Six Presentations from Armenian Researchers, most active ANSEF winners
- Comments by Foreign Scientists/Reviewers

ANSEF's Mission has been to assist in maintaining and strengthening the Armenian intellectual community by providing peer-reviewed research awards to support scientific, technological and scholarly research. Since inception (2001) ANSEF has provided 281 awards for some USD 1.5 million, USD 5000 to each group to accomplish a small research project during a year.

Among the ANSEF winners on astronomical/astrophysical subjects, there have been 33 projects by 21 Principal Investigators involving more that 70 scientists, including 27 PIs from BAO and 6, from YSU.

## ANSEF 2013 CALL



# A.N.S.E.F.

The Armenian National Science & Education Fund



The Armenian National Science & Education Fund (ANSEF) invites grant applications for the 2013 competition. Applicants are to submit their applications through the ANSEF website portal, accessed from the top bar of the ANSEF website ([www.ansef.org](http://www.ansef.org)) or directly through the link [ansef.herokuapp.com](http://ansef.herokuapp.com). The deadline for submissions is August 31, 2012. Competition results will be announced by January 1, 2013. For further questions, contact [help@ansef.org](mailto:help@ansef.org).

If you have applied for an ANSEF grant in the past through our portal, you may use your old account to submit new applications. If you have forgotten your password, the portal allows you to reset it and log in with a new password. This allows you to access all your past information in your new proposals. Watch the video tutorials on the portal's login page for more instructions. If you are a new applicant who have not used the ANSEF portal before, you need to use the portal to first register. You will then receive an email to confirm your new account, and then proceed with logging in.

For any technical questions about the ANSEF portal, please contact [website@ansef.org](mailto:website@ansef.org).

## ArAS PRIZE for YOUNG ASTRONOMERS 2012



ArAS is pleased to announce its **Annual Prize for Young Astronomers (Yervant Terzian Prize) 2012**. The prize will be awarded to a young scientist under 35 working in astronomy or related field and showing significant results in research and/or other scientific activities connected anyhow with the Armenian astronomy. **Nominations** may be made by ArAS members or any research organization from Armenia or elsewhere and should be sent to one of the ArAS Co-Presidents. They should include personal data for the nominee and a brief description of his/her achievements during the year, including important scientific results, all published papers, participation in meetings, given talks, etc., whatever is considered to be important. At least one refereed publication is required to qualify for the Prize.

The **deadline** for applications is **December 1**. The winner will be announced in the last issue of ArAS Newsletter at the end of the year. A **diploma** and sum of **\$500** will be awarded to the winner. The Prize was established in 2004 and is being sponsored by one of ArAS Co-Presidents **Prof. Yervant Terzian** (Cornell University, USA). Since 2009 the Prize is named after Yervant Terzian.

### Previous ArAS Annual Prize Winners

- 2004 Lusine SARGSYAN (BAO)
- 2005 Artak HARUTYUNYAN (BAO) and Elena HOVHANNESIAN (BAO)
- 2006 Lilit HOVHANNISYAN (BAO) and Parandzem SINAMYAN (BAO)
- 2007 Igor CHILINGARIAN (OBSPM, France)
- 2008 Vardan ADIBEKYAN (YSU) and Artur HAKOBYAN (BAO)
- 2009 Lusine SARGSYAN (BAO)
- 2010 Parandzem SINAMYAN (BAO)
- 2011 Marine AVTANDILYAN (ASPU)

## ANNIVERSARIES



**Prof. Magda STAVINSCHI – 70.** On June 12, well-known Romanian astronomer and an ArAS member Prof. Magda Stavinschi celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She has received her PhD from the Astronomical Department of the Faculty of Mathematics-Mechanics, Bucharest University. In 1990-2005 Prof. Stavinschi was the Director of the Astronomical Institute of the Romanian Academy, also she was the President of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) Commission for education and development (2006-2009), president of the IAU WG “The Future Development of the Ground-Based Astrometry” (2000-2006), co-chairman of the IAU WG “Astrometry by Small Ground-Based Telescopes” (2006-2012), member of the working group “Eclipse ’99” of the European Council (1998-2000). She is the President of Archaeoastronomical Heritage Committee (European Society “Astronomy in Culture”), President of the association “Eclipse ’99”, now “Astronomia 21”, President of the Institute for Transdisciplinary Studies in Science, Spirituality, Society (IT4S), National node for various European programs, e.g. EuroPlaNet, “Hands On Universe”, President of the Association for the Dialogue between Science and Theology in Romania (ADSTR), Co-editor of the series “Science and Religion”, “Science, Spirituality,

Society". Currently she is a Researcher at the Astronomical Institute of the Romanian Academy and associate researcher at the Institut de Mécanique Céleste et de Calcul des Éphémérides (IMCCE), Paris. Her scientific interests are Astrometry, Celestial Mechanics, History of Astronomy, Astronomical Education, Science and Religion. Magda Stavinschi has published more than 300 scientific papers (more than half in refereed journals), 13 book chapters, 10 books (editor of 20 volumes), hundreds of articles in mass-media, as well as she has had various media presentations. *Prof.* Stavinschi has been honored "Officier de l'Ordre National du Merit", France, 2005, Radio Cultural Excellence Award for promoting the Romanian and international astronomical research during the scientific programs, 2002, UNESCO Excellence Award "Cecilia Banc for Science Popularization", 2004, as well as different medals and diplomas from Romania. Magda Stavinschi is an IAU member (Commissions of Astrometry, Astronomical education and development, History of Astronomy, Outreach), founding member of the European Astronomical Society (EAS, 1990), member of the European Society Astronomy in Culture (SEAC), Sub-Regional European Astronomical Committee (SREAC), European society "Euroscience", Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), Member of the Romanian Committee for History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (CRIFST) of the Romanian Academy, member of ArAS since 2009.



**Dr. Areg MICKAELIAN – 50.** *Dr.* Areg M. Mickaelian, ArAS Co-President, recently celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He was born on 22 June 1962 in Yerevan. In 1984 he graduated from the YSU with a specialization of astrophysics. Since 1986 he works at BAO. He obtained PhD degree in 1994. He has been the Sci. Secretary of BAO (1994-2001), he is the Head of the Armenian Virtual Observatory (ArVO) reaserch group (since 2005), and a Leading Research Associate (since 2007). Since 2000 he is the founding

Resident Director of the Isaac Newton Institute (INI), Armenian Branch, since 2001 – the founding President of ArAS (Co-President, since 2002). Since 2001 he has been lecturing at the YSU Physics Faculty, Chair of Astrophysics. Since 2002, he is the PI of the Digitized First Byurakan Survey (DFBS) project, since 2005 – founding Project Manager of ArVO, since 2006 – founding Chair of the Byurakan International Summer Schools (BISS), since 2009 – Sci. Secretary of Viktor Ambartsumian International Prize Steering Committee. In 1997-2012, Mickaelian has been invited for collaborative research to IAP, OHP and Lyon Observatory (France), Hamburger Sternwarte (Germany), Rome (Italy) and Cornell (USA) Universities. He has given invited seminars in the USA, UK, Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, India, etc. His research interests relate to search and studies of active galaxies, astronomical large-area surveys, IR and X-ray sources, WDs and CVs, VOs. He has revealed 1103 blue stellar objects, including many new QSOs. Seyferts, WDs, hot subdwarfs, CVs, etc. He has estimated the surface brightness of bright QSOs. By optical identifications he has revealed some 300 IR stars and some 1200 IR galaxies, including many new active galaxies and ULIRGs. He has identified more than 6000 X-ray sources, including new AGN, interacting galaxies, WDs, CVs, and carbon stars. From the IRAS FSC, by means of comparative analysis with radio and optical catalogs, IR galaxies with the highest IR/opt flux ratio were revealed. Among the SST sources, 21 stars were detected having debris. He has suggested new methods for calculation of stellar proper motions and variability and using these methods, many high proper motion and variable stars were discovered. In 2002-2005, he has accomplished the digitization of the First Byurakan Survey (FBS). In 2005, he has created the ArVO, which became a member of the International Virtual Observatory Alliance (IVOA). Mickaelian has published more than 120 sci. papers and electronic catalogs, as well as numerous sci-popular articles. He has edited a number of Proceedings and books. He has compiled "Viktor Ambartsumian" and

“Astronomy for students” DVDs, created an online database of Armenian astronomers. Mickaelian is a member of IAU, EAS, EAAS, AAS, ASP, ArAS, EPS, APS, Euroscience, SEAC, ITHEA, and other scientific societies and organizations, member of editorial boards of AATr and “Open Astronomy Journal”, Editor of ArASNews. He was awarded the annual prizes of APS, EAAS and e-Science, certificates of IAU/UNESCO, ArAS, NAS RA and Ministry of Culture, many research grants of European and American sci. foundations. He is a member of EAAS Council and International Bureau, IVOA Executive Committee, SREAC, and several IAU Working Groups. In 2009, he was the Armenian coordinator of IYA declared by UNESCO.



**Dr. Don BARRY – 50.** *Dr. Donald Barry, an American astronomer and an ArAS member, recently celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He was born on 25 June 1962. Don Barry has received his B.S. Chemistry, Mathematics in 1985 (Georgia Tech) and Ph.D. in 1995 (Georgia State University). He was a Harlan J. Smith Fellow in 1996–1998 (UT/Austin). Don Barry joined the Cornell Spitzer Space Telescope Infrared Spectrograph instrument team in 2000, as the architect and manager of the data processing requirements and scientific computing methodology for the instrument team. In addition to architecture work,*

*he brought expertise in numerical methods, scientific databases and data mining, and standards for interoperability of astronomical data to the Cornell group. The main fiends of his studies are Infrared and Optical Astronomy, Astronomical Computing. His most recent work is in establishing the Cornell Atlas of Spitzer/IRS Sources (CASSIS), an archive of all Spitzer/IRS spectra supporting cone search, browsing, and interface with virtual observatory tools. It will eventually offer automatically reduced spectra of all targets, including serendipitous slit finds, both through its own web interface and through the International Virtual Observatory. He participated in some of the early field-surveys on site location work for the proposed Cornell-Caltech Atacama Telescope, helping to deploy weather stations atop an 18,300 foot peak and a lesser front-range location. He was also involved in interface work and instrument commissioning for the Cornell-built Wide-field IR Camera (WIRC) for the Palomar telescope. Don is also very involved in teaching. Since 2006, he has co-taught Astro 4410 (Experimental Astronomy, previously Observational Astronomy), with Jim Houck and Jim Cordes. Don has also participated in significant upgrades to the departmental Hartung-Boothroyd Observatory in support of Astro 4410 and astrophysical demonstrations to students in other courses. Don was the architect for the first incarnation of the departmental Hewitt Laboratory for Undergraduate Computing, and in 2003, taught the course Astro 234 (Modern Astrophysical Techniques), using this facility, introducing students to a survey of astronomical techniques, with intensive hands-on analysis, reduction, and modeling of a variety of raw instrument data. Don is the advisor for the Cornell Chapter of the International Students for Social Equality; a Cornell registered student organization promoting the refoundation of our economy to serve social need rather than private profit. He is also the coordinator for the Cornell/Ithaca Free Outing Club, which promotes a community model for student engagement with nature in opposition to Cornell's commercial outdoors entertainment enterprises, “Cornell Outdoor Education” and “Outdoor Odyssey”.*